

Message Text

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EXDIS

FOR UNDERSECRETARY ROBINSON

E.O. 11652:GDS
TAGS: ENRG, AG, UK
SUBJ: BRITISH VIEWS ON CONSUMER-PRODUCER CONFERENCE

1. DONALD MAITLAND OF FOREIGN OFFICE, WHOM I SAW LAST NIGHT
AT HIS REQUEST, ASKED MY TO PASS ON FOLLOWING TO YOU:

(A) YOUR BRIEFING ON YOUR VISIT TO ALGERIA WAS MOST HELPFUL
TO HIM ON HIS VISIT, WHICH NOW COMPLETED. HE HAS SEEN VARIOUS
ECONOMIC TECHNOCRATS PLUS MINISTERS FINANCE AND COMMERCE.

(B) IMPRESSION WHICH HE GOT REPEATEDLY WAS:

(1) ALGERIANS NOW CONCENTRATING ON APRIL 7 PARIS PRODUCERS-
CONSUMERS CONFERENCE TO EXCLUSION OTHER INTERNATIONAL
ECONOMIC MATTERS. THEY CONSIDER THIS PREPARATORY
MEETING EXTREMELY IMPORTANT AND BELIEVE AGREEMENT ON
AGENDA FOR SUBSEQUENT CONFERENCE IS MATTER OF MUCH
SUBSTANTIVE WEIGHT. THEY WILL BE WELL-PREPARED.

(2) ALGERIANS ARE GOING TO PUSH STRONGLY AT PREPARATORY
MEETING FOR INCLUSION OF NEW WORLD ECONOMIC ORDER AND
RAW MATERIALS IN GENERAL ON AGENDA SUBSEQUENT CONFERENCE.
IF THEY FIND NO DISPOSITION ON PART DC'S TO ACCOMODATE
LDC WISHES THIS REGARD THEY WILL SAY THERE NO POINT IN

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HAVING CONFERENCE AND MAY WITHDRAW.

(3) THEY HAVE NOT GIVEN MUCH, IF ANY, THOUGHT TO MODALITIES FOR DISCUSSION NEW ORDER AND RAW MATERIALS. THEY INDICATE BELIEF THIS WILL TAKE CARE OF ITSELF ONCE DECISION IN PRINCIPLE TAKEN.

(C) MAITLAND THINKS IT VERY IMPORTANT BRITISH AND AMERICANS GET TOGETHER TO WORK OUT STRATEGY TO DEAL WITH WHAT HE FORESEES AS LIKELY BE VERY DIFFICULT MEETING. HE HOPES BE ABLE TO SEE YOU BEFORE CONFERENCE BEGINS.

2. MAITLAND'S VIEWS ARE COMPLETELY CONSISTENT WITH WHAT WE KNOW OF ALGERIAN POSITION, ALTHOUGH WE HESITATE TO PREDICT WHAT ALGERIANS WILL DO IF DC'S REFUSE DISCUSS WORLD ORDER AND RAW MATERIALS. MUCH WILL DEPEND ON POSITION OTHER LDC'S.

3. MAITLAND ALSO INDICATED BELIEF OTHER MEMBERS IEA DO NOT REALIZE WHAT IS IN STORE FOR THEM AT PARIS. HE FEELS THEY PROCEEDING IN MISTAKEN BELIEF IT ESSENTIALLY UP TO DC CONSUMERS TO DECIDE WHAT AGENDA WILL BE AND HAVE NOT GIVEN THOUGHT TO HOW THEY WILL RESPOND TO ALGERIAN CHALLENGE.PARKER

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